



Southern Accent

Brighton Avenue School

The Brighton Avenue School in Atlantic City is 107 years old and showing its age. Floors are worn, steps grooved from the daily pounding of small, sneakered feet.

But the heart of the school - its staff and students - is still beating strong. For the second year in a row this neighborhood school in one of the state's most diverse urban districts has defied the odds and scored well above average on the state's fourth-grade test, the NJASK4.

The state Department of Education released the 2003 test results Wednesday.

Overall, 86 percent of the fourth-graders passed the language arts test and 85.7 percent passed the math test.

The most ethnically diverse of the city's schools, more than half of the students speak Spanish at home. Less than a third are white. Ten percent speak Vietnamese and the rest are a mix including Cantonese, Bengali and Urdu. "There are 15 languages spoken

here," Principal Medina Peyton said.

Mobility is a huge challenge. Between 20 percent and 30 percent of the students come or go each year.

Students will move into the new, bigger, Sovereign Avenue School next year, and Peyton hopes they can carry the Brighton spirit with them.



107 years of "class"

Fourth grade teacher Carolyn Pendleton believes the key is setting high standards, and consistently and persistently following them, starting in kindergarten. "We let them know the expectations are high, and we tell them we believe they can do it," she said. "They know the school has done well on the tests before, and now it is their turn. But it is a long hard road that starts on Day One."

Provided by
DIANE D'AMICO
Education Writer,
Atlantic City Press

NJDOE
Southern Regional Office

April/May 2004

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ☺ Brown vs Board of Education | 2 |
| ☺ Side by Side | 2 |
| ☺ Certification News | 2 |
| ☺ Teacher of the Year | 3 |
| ☺ Grant Updates | 3 |
| ☺ NCLB Quiz | 3 |
| ☺ Southern Regional Staff | 4 |
| ☺ Persistently Dangerously Schools | 5 |
| ☺ New Teacher Institute | 5 |
| ☺ Gifted and Talented | 5 |
| ☺ Lesson Study | 5 |
| ☺ Save the Dates - Brown vs Board Ed | 6 |

Southern Regional Office Plans Brown vs Board of Education

The Southern Regional Office plans two (2) events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v Board of Education* landmark decision. On **May 11, 2004**, in collaboration with Stockton College, the "Opening Doors to Opportunity" seizes the Brown decision as a metaphor for all the significant experiences that have led to diversity and excellence in schools, work places, neighborhoods, and other aspects of our lives.



On **May 26, 2004**, links will be made to Burlington County Law Week with an oral history project at Willingboro High School. "Hearing Student Voices" will feature State Board of Education member Thelma Napoleon Smith, whose family was instrumental in the desegregation of the Trenton public schools.

This program also presents contemporary perspectives on the case provided by high school students.

For additional information, contact Jennifer Beaumont at: 856-468-5530 ext 6078

Side by Side

The department has introduced the first edition of the *Side by Side: A Mentoring Newsletter* - for novice teachers, mentors, local professional development committees, curriculum coordinators, and all those who are involved in mentoring practices in the state of New Jersey. The mentoring newsletter will have bimonthly editions available on this Web site.

Side by Side will alert you to the latest information regarding implementation of

the mentoring regulations, mentoring resources, training sessions and workshops, and provide advice on a variety of mentoring issues. You will also be invited to share your expertise and reflections as we work through the process together. In this edition we will review the key elements in the revised mentoring regulations.

The Newsletter is written by Victoria Duff, Mentor Training Coordinator for the Department of Education. She can

be reached via e-mail at: victoria.duff@doe.state.nj.us or by calling 1-609-292-0189. If you have a Novice Teacher Tip or a Mentor Teacher Tip that you would like to share, please e-mail Vicki Duff.

The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man's foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher.
-Thomas Henry Huxley, Life and Letters of Thomas Huxley

Certification News

The Southern Regional Certification office would like everyone to be aware of the new changes in regards to teacher certification within the state of New Jersey. Please refer to <http://www.nj.gov/njded/educators/license/> for a complete overview of the newly adopted licensing code. At this Web address, one will be able to find new information regarding the changes in fees, requirements for various instruc-

tional licenses, and requirements for various educational services licenses.

Questions??

Please call our main certification line at 856-468-5530 ext. 6073.

Melissa Fantozzi and Jessica Tran

The Southern Regional Certification Specialists will be happy to answer your questions.



Clearview Regional High School

The Department of Education proudly named Mrs. Cummins the State Teacher of the Year. Dr. Librera said, "It is clear to people who meet and talk to her that she has an innate love of teaching and respect for her students' minds. She challenges her students to become better learners each day by introducing them to — and reminding them of — the importance of a good book and how it can relate to their lives."

Cummins was selected by a panel of judges who represent the state's educational associations. The panel reviewed the applications of the 21 county teachers of the year and selected Cummins from a field of six finalists.

In an essay on her philosophy of teaching, Cummins wrote: "As a teacher of

English, I have the good fortune of teaching students great pieces of literature; they don't always feel so 'fortunate' nor might they deem these pieces as 'great' literature. Times change, events change, settings change, but the human condition does not."

"As a teacher of literature, it is my role to take students outside of the book itself — to connect literary characters and themes to the timeless human condition, for it is in this very place where students will discover insights into truth and life itself."

Cummins spent one year teaching at Maple Shade Junior/Senior High School before moving to the Clearview Regional School District in Gloucester County. She taught language arts for grades 7-9 from 1990 to 1993 before moving to the

high school, where she is now the English Department Chairperson. She continues to teach honors English and college prep for seniors.

"We are pleased to recognize Diane Cummins as the State Teacher of the Year," said Arnold G. Hyndman, the State Board of Education president. "The board is proud of Mrs. Cummins' accomplishment in the classroom, especially as it relates to instruction in literacy. Diane Cummins is the type of teacher that all educators should emulate."

Mrs. Cummins will pursue a doctorate in education in September 2004. She received her Master of Arts in Reading Education from Rowan University in 2000. Her basic teaching philosophy focuses on "3 R's" — Keep it **Real**, Keep it **Relevant**, and Give Students **Respect**.

Grants Update

- The online NCLB application is currently being tested by a sample group of field personnel. NCLB update: 3rd grade test to be field-tested again this year.
- Trainings that were originally conducted by the Office of Title I are being refined and will soon be offered on a regional/county level.

Workshop topics include: Title I Program Managers, Accountability, School Improvement, Scientifically Based Research, and Parental Involvement.

- The NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum is a work in progress with

five committees established to refine the document for review at the senior staff level.

*Travelers:
There are no roads. The road is created as we walk it together.-
Antonio Machado*



NCLB QUIZ

How much do you really know about this federal law? Take this quiz to see how you rate.

1) Which of the following is not an NCLB subgroup?

- race and ethnicity
- limited English proficient
- gender
- students with disabilities

2) Each state must establish a definition of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to measure:

- student economic status

b) the extent to which programs are research-based

- performance on the Terra Nova test
- incremental progress of schools in reaching 100 percent proficiency

3) By what school year must ALL groups achieve 100 percent proficiency on state assessments?

- 2013-14
- 2007-08
- 2010-11
- 2004-05

4) Under the NCLB Act, the term "in need of

improvement" means the school has not met AYP for:

- one school year
- two consecutive years
- three consecutive years
- none of the above

5) If a subgroup is identified as not having met AYP but the percentage of students in that subgroup not meeting AYP has decreased by 10 percent from the previous year it is referred to as:

- meeting AYP
- safe harbor
- early warning

continued on page 4

NCLB Quiz from page 3

d) none of the above.

6) *The achievement scores (accountability process) for students with disabilities who are moved from their neighborhood school to receive services at other schools will be included where:*

- a) at their home school
- b) at the school where they are attending and receiving educational services
- c) at both the home school and the school where they are attending and receiving educational services
- d) in the state's accountability process only.

7) *A school must send letters to parents stating the options for their child if:*

- a) the school is categorized "in need of improvement"
- b) the school meets the "persistently dangerous" criteria
- c) the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks

by, a teacher who is not highly qualified
d) all of the above

8) *The National Reading Panel stated that reading programs teaching children five skills--phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension--would be supported by the NCLB grant entitled:*

- a) Success for All
- b) Reading First
- c) Reading is Fundamental
- d) Fox in the Box

7-8 Correct—You have scored "Advanced Proficient." Your knowledge of NCLB rivals that of Secretary Paige.

5-6 Correct—You made AYP!

2-4 Correct—You have been identified as "in need of improvement."

0-1 Correct—You have been left behind.

Answers: 1) c, 2) d, 3) a, 4) b, 5) b, 6) a, 7) d, 8) b

NJPEP is the online professional development Web site of the NJ Department of Education.

<http://www.njpep.org/>

NJPEP contacts:

Office

609-292-9069 or 609-943-3550

Lavinia Kumar—Manager

Central Region

Patricia Green

609-943-4201

Northern Region

Maria Mendez

609-943-5201

Southern Region

Dorothy Atkins

609-292-5276

NJPEP provides FREE turnkey training.

Southern Regional Office Staff

**Dr. Albert Monillas,
Assistant Commissioner:**

1492 Tanyard Rd.

Sewell, NJ 08080-4222

phone: 856-468-5530

fax: 856-468-8426

Kathleen Padulese, Secretary to Assistant Commissioner, Office Manager

Phone: ext. 6070

Dr. Jennifer Beaumont, Regional Innovative Programs Coordinator

Phone: ext. 6078

Carole DeMesquita, – Professional Development Content Specialist

Phone: ext. 6077

Nicholas J. Dotoli, Regional Literacy, Standards and Assessment Coordinator

Phone: ext. 6083

**Melissa Fantozzi
Southern Regional
Certification Specialist**

Phone: ext. 6073

**Wayne Knight,
Business Services
Specialist**

Phone: ext. 6076

**Carla Spates,
Regional Grants
Coordinator**

Phone: ext. 6079

**Jessica Tran
Southern Regional
Certification Specialist**

Phone: ext. 6073

*Isolation is
the enemy of
improvement.
-Unknown*

Persistently Dangerous Schools

Officials of the federal government met with Department of Education officials in early April to discuss the status of the state's persistently dangerous schools.

The six schools in the southern region were visited by Assistant Commissioner Albert Monillas and staff in August of last year and a comprehensive review of each school's corrective ac-

tion plan took place during February and March of 2004 headed by Nicholas Dotoli. Overall, each school was noted to be well aware of the corrective action plan that had been adopted following the categorization.

An effort was made to disseminate the CAP to relevant constituencies, and each school was able to identify data reporting errors that may have

falsely inflated each school's report. The combined effect of more accurate data reporting, curriculum modifications and parental support is likely to result in a significant decrease in incident reports to be filed in June of this year.

New Teacher Institute

More than half of new teachers leave the profession within their first five years. The reason? Research indicates that new teachers feel overwhelmed by the expectations and scope of the job. Other sources cite teacher isolation as a major contributing factor.

In an effort to help districts address these issues, the Southern Regional Office (SRO) is pleased to report a year-long series of professional development opportunities for teachers new to the profession. Teachers with fewer than five years' experience were invited to participate in this series beginning in October of 2003.

There was a full-day sympo-

sium of workshops and activities on October 27 at Atlantic Cape Community College, Mays Landing. Topics covered included differentiated instruction, inclusion, classroom management, alignment of standards, on-line resources, and character education. In addition, each participating teacher received a year's subscription to Task Stream. Task Stream is a web-based curriculum mapping tool which aids in lesson planning and promotes standards-based teaching.

Following the initial symposium, six voluntary workshops have



been scheduled.

A registration fee of \$200 per teacher was required. Many districts were interested in participating but were unable to do so because of limited space. Those on this year's waiting list will be the first to be able to register for the 2004-05 school year.

In October, 2004, SRO will be partnering with Stockton College in Pomona. For more information about next year's event, contact Carole DeMesquita at (856) 468-5530 ext. 6077.

Gifted and Talented

The NJAGC (NJ Association of Gifted Children) held their annual state conference in Princeton on March 5 and past president, Roberta Braverman, had lent her support to organizing a Southern Regional Gifted and Talented Education Symposium for administrators and teachers located in the southern part of the state.

As schools look to enhance their implementation of the relevant State

Board Regulations in this area, the Southern Region shares the commitment of the department in disseminating best practices in the area of gifted education. The event, tentatively scheduled for early May, will bring together



educators, researchers and practitioners.

Nothing is as real as a dream. The world can change around you, but your dream will not. Responsibilities need not erase it. Duties need not obscure it. Because the dream is within you, no one can take it away.
--Unknown

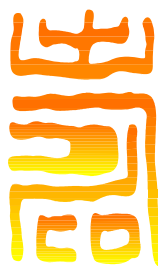
Lesson Study on Improving Instruction

Have you wondered about lesson study as a professional development plan for improving instruction? You probably know it was developed in Japan and that it involves teachers working in teams to produce "study lessons" for use by the group. Here are some of the basic steps to the process:

(1) forming a lesson study team; (2) focusing the lesson study

for research; (3) planning the study lesson; (4) preparing for observation by team members and "knowledgeable others"; (5) teaching and observing the lesson; (6) debriefing the lesson; and (7) reflecting and planning the next steps.

For additional information about this process, contact



Carole DeMesquita in the Southern Region. She can be reached at (856) 468-5530 ext. 6077.

A genius is more than three people in the same room.
--Japanese Proverb

NJDOE
Southern Regional Office

Southern Regional Office
1492 Tanyard Road
Sewell, New Jersey 08080

Phone: 856-468-5530

Fax: 856-468-8526



SAVE THE DATE!
THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
PRESENTS
50TH ANNIVERSARY
BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION:
"KEEPING THE PROMISE"

BROWN vs.
BOARD OF EDUCATION

- **May 11, 2004**
Opening the Doors to Opportunity
Stockton College, Pomona, NJ
- **May 13, 2004**
Julian Bond, NAACP Chairman
- **May 20, 2004**
Cheryl Brown-Henderson,
Co-Founder of the Brown
Foundation
- **May 26, 2004**
Willingboro High School

For more information, call: 609-984-6755 or visit <http://www.njpep.org/tutorials/BrownvBoard/index.htm>